

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

February 20, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, Matt Milazzo, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Little, Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Jenna Linn-Rice, DOTD Patrick Landry and Susan Douglas

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.

2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:

4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thibeau to approve the January 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the January 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Bailey to approve the January 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

6. Executive Director Report

- Patrick Landry, DOTD: Mr. Landry is now DOTD's CRDC Project Manager. He took Chris Knotts place about three weeks ago. He said that Susan Douglas remains the first point of contact with any questions, or comments, etc. that ARBC may have regarding the CRDC Project. He will provide a copy of a MOA between the Corps and DOTD which basically asks DOTD to let the Corps do the utility relocations. Rietschier said that the State has \$15 million in Priority 1, ARBC committed \$11.5 million, USACE \$6.7 million and the DOTD \$17 million to do the utility relocations and US 61 Bridge. Babin said this must be done now so the CRDC Project moves forward.
- Bobby Duplantier, USACE CRDC Project Manager: It is a positive that all three agencies are in agreement and have money to put toward a project. There has recently been unprecedented conversation going on to discuss funding for this project. In regard to the utility relocations and bridge construction at US Hwy. 61, DOTD is handling the design and USACE is handling the construction of utility relocations. There needs to be a bridge coming behind the utility relocations. They didn't want to relocate pipelines then wait on appropriations to start building the bridge. This will be the best path forward. Nothing substantial has been done since Lilly Bayou Control Drop Structure. When questioned about the Cap on the CRDC Project, he said that he believes the Cap has been waived within the last day or two but he really cannot comment on it.
- David Lindenfeld with "Together Baton Rouge": Mr. Lindenfeld read a Resolution which was adopted by the group to strengthen the Amite River Basin Commission. This Resolution was adopted after they saw that there was an article in the newspaper about dissolving the Commission. "See attached Resolution." Babin stated that the Amite River Basin Commission has the same objective as the DOTD, and the Corps of Engineers.
- DOTD Susan Douglas: Regarding the CRDC Project, The only active land discussions take place right now are around acquiring construction servitude associated with the Bypass Road tie ins at US 61.7.
- ARBC Legal Counsel
 - Beech Grove Farms Hunting Lease: Sealed bids were opened by Jenna Linn-Rice and were as follows: \$25.33/per acre for annual \$9401.48 was bid by Alan Marbury. The second highest bid was \$18.26/per acre. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Carter, seconded by Thibeau to accept the highest bid with the understanding that the previous owner will be notified of "right of first refusal."

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: Babin proclaimed March as Flood Awareness Month. Guitrau said that she requested that the Governor proclaim March as Flood Awareness Month, also. She recently received his proclamation. These proclamations help the communities with CRS ratings in order to get discounts on flood insurance.

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9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President
Date: March 20, 2018

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary